

## HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION PROFILE



The members of your group own homes near the park and are concerned about public safety. You enjoy seeing deer in your neighborhood but you're frustrated because the deer often eat your shrubs, flowers and vegetables. Even with your concerns about property damage and safety, no one in your group is in favor of eliminating the entire deer population from the town.

- You are deeply concerned about your neighborhood's risks of increased exposure to Lyme disease. Many of your group's members have children that play outside and you worry these children's health is at risk.
- The growing incidence of deer-vehicle accidents is another major concern of your group. These collisions not only pose public safety risks but they also are expensive.
- You bear a financial burden due to landscape damage from deer eating most of your ornamental shrubs and from having to install deer-proof fencing around your garden.
- While you enjoy seeing deer and do not want them to suffer, your family's safety is more important to you than the welfare of individual deer.
- You are undecided about which plan will best reduce the deer population and maintain them at levels acceptable to both the environment and your community, but you agree with biologists that deer have exceeded the biological carrying capacity.

**Consider these questions as you debate the management proposals during your town meeting:**

- What public risks do the different management options create in your neighborhood?
- How much will the different options cost taxpayers within the community, and are they worth the projected results?
- What is an acceptable number of deer for people to enjoy watching, yet is safe for the community?

### WEB RESEARCH SITES

- Community news on deer problems ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/comm/deer/deermgt.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/comm/deer/deermgt.htm))
- International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies—Report titled “Bears in the Backyard, Deer in the Driveway” ([www.iafwa.org/bearsbackyardfacts.html](http://www.iafwa.org/bearsbackyardfacts.html))
- Lyme disease and deer ticks—See the publication titled “Lyme Disease: Clinical Update for Physicians,” Pages 1 & 2 ([www.lyme.org](http://www.lyme.org) and [www.aldf.com](http://www.aldf.com))